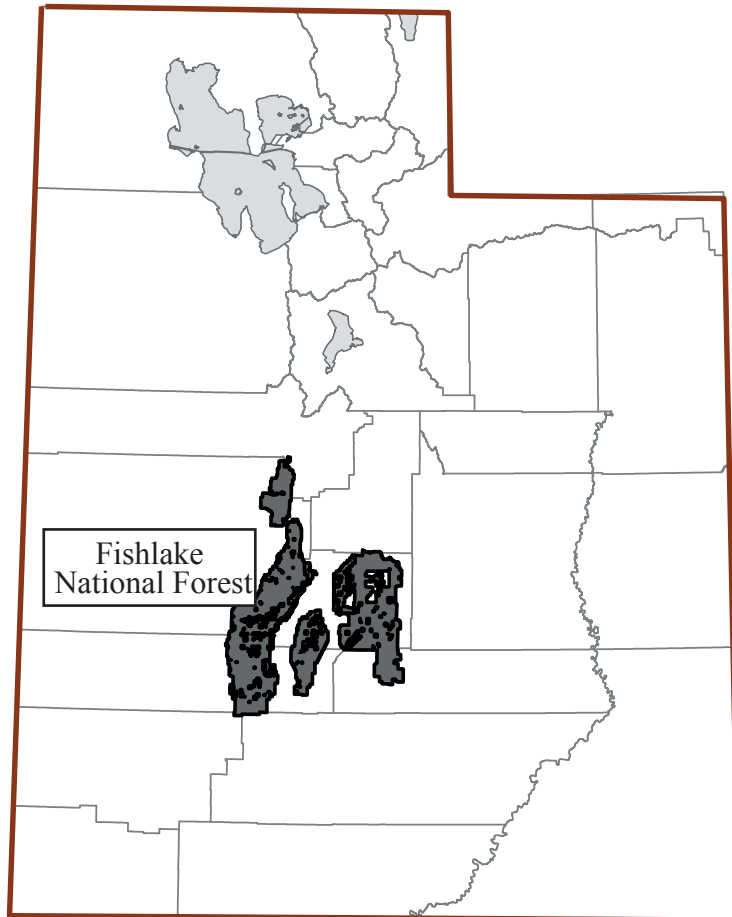


Fishlake National Forest Profile

Prepared for the:
Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment

Prepared by:
Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
with assistance from:
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Utah Division of Indian Affairs



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FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST OVERVIEW

Forest Area

1,434,592 acres (2,241 mi²)

0% wilderness

Forest Coverage

29% forested-timberland

38% forested-woodland

33% non-forested

Forest type (in forested areas)

44%—Pinyon/Juniper

15%—Aspen

9%—Spruce fir

7%—White fir

6%—Mountain mahogany

6%—Douglas-fir

4%—Engelmann Spruce

4%—Gambel oak

2%—Juniper (only)

2%—Ponderosa Pine

source: *Forest Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, 1998*

Fishlake NF Ownership

57.0% of Sevier County

39.5% of Piute County

22.1% of Wayne County

8.4% of Beaver County

8.4% of Millard County

0.9% of Juab County

0.1% of Garfield, Sanpete, Iron
Counties

The Fishlake National Forest, established in 1899, was named for the largest lake on the Forest. The Forest encompasses many of the mountains in central Utah that form the divide between the Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau. The Forest nearly surrounds two major valleys—the Sevier Valley and Grass Valley. Vegetation is diverse, an almost even mix of tall forests, woodland forest, and sagebrush-grasslands. The amount of private land surrounding and held within Fishlake National Forest raises serious concerns for forest-urban interface issues and lends a strong sense of ownership to local residents.

National Forests are managed to serve a diversity of stakeholders, responding to local, state, national, and international interests. National Forests also serve a variety of users from recreation to agriculture to industry. The small communities that surround the Fishlake have primarily rural economies and are filled with agricultural fields. They rely on the Forest for water, grazing lands through permit, and timber supply through contracts. Mining once turned some of these communities into boomtowns; today the only major mining occurs at a coal mine on the north edge of the Forest. Recreation is a very popular use on the Fishlake. The Forest and communities surrounding it are becoming widely known for the extensive network of ATV routes, called the Piute Trail and the Great Western Trail. The Forest is also a popular place for hunting, fishing, driving for pleasure, and cross-country skiing in the winter.

National Forests must comply with numerous federal mandates, federal laws, coordinate with other agencies, and are advised to respect state and local plans and regulations as well (*see 2D—Decision-Making Linkages*). Actions are guided by numerous plans and guidelines which can be categorized into two tiers of planning that are informed by assessment work at many scales. The highest level is the Forest Plan, which sets the overall goals for the entire Forest and sets general rules for what can and can't be done on the Forest. Detailed assessments are often undertaken to better understand specific conditions in specific areas to help chart a course for action. At the lower level, project specific plans are created to determine an exact course of action. Examples of recent plans completed by Fishlake National Forest are listed below. More plans and information can be found on the internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fishlake/>.

Dixie & Fishlake National Forests: A Collaborative Process for Forest Plan Revision, 2003

Ten Year Fishlake National Forest Monitoring Report, 2002

Pahvant Interagency Fuels Reduction Project, 2003

Fishlake National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan 1986

Fishlake National Forest—Overview

Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

USFS
Social-Economic
Assessment
2003